

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Action mailed December 1, 2004, with a shortened statutory period of three months set to expire March 1, 2005. Claims 1-30 are currently pending. With this amendment, claims 1, 4, 10-12, 22, and 25 have been amended, and claims 3, 5, 8, and 24 have been canceled.

During a telephone discussion, the Examiner referred to issued U.S. Patent 6,904,508. The subject matter of U.S. Patent 6,904,508 and the claimed invention, at the time the invention was made, were commonly owned, by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

A Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith to disclaim the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the present invention of issued U.S. Patent 6,904,508.

The Examiner stated that the specification should be amended to remove a particular phrase. Applicants have amended the specification to remove this phrase.

The Examiner rejected claims 3-4 and 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 3 and 24 have been canceled. Claims 4 and 25 have been amended to now depend directly on their respective independent claims. Therefore, this rejection is believed to be overcome.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 22 to describe the management information comprising one of a pointer to a sequencing rule, a pointer to a management rule, a pointer to an anchor point for beginning a selected analysis process, or a pointer to a processing rule. The scope of the pending claims has not changed. No additional search is necessary.

Claims 10-12 have been amended to correct antecedent basis problems and a typographical error.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,960,451 issued to *Voigt*. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 22 have been amended to describe the management information comprising one of a pointer to a sequencing rule, a pointer to a management rule, a

pointer to an anchor point for beginning a selected analysis process, or a pointer to a processing rule.

Voigt does not teach pointers. The Examiner takes Official Notice of pointers in his discussion of the dependent claims but does not refer to any particular art that teaches pointers. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a particular reference that teaches pointers if the Examiner maintains his rejection of the claims.

The Examiner has not cited any reference that teaches pointers or, more specifically, a pointer to a sequencing rule, a pointer to a management rule, a pointer to an anchor point for beginning a selected analysis process, or a pointer to a processing rule.

Voigt does not anticipate Applicants' claim 1. *Voigt* does not describe, teach, or suggest the management information comprising one of a pointer to a sequencing rule, a pointer to a management rule, a pointer to an anchor point for beginning a selected analysis process, or a pointer to a processing rule.

Applicants' claim 22 describes a self-defining data element for enhanced data management and recovery, comprising a data portion, and a metadata portion, wherein the metadata includes management information including management rules and processing rules and one or more anchor points to begin selected analysis processes. Claim 22 has been amended to add the feature of the management information comprising one of a pointer to a sequencing rule, a pointer to a management rule, a pointer to an anchor point for beginning a selected analysis process, or a pointer to a processing rule. Therefore, for the reasons given above, *Voigt* does not anticipate Applicants' claim 22.

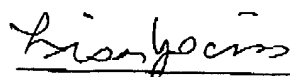
The Examiner rejected claims 2-21 and 23-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Voigt*. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, *Voigt* does not describe, teach, or suggest the management information comprising one of a pointer to a sequencing rule, a pointer to a management rule, a pointer to an anchor point for beginning a selected analysis process, or a pointer to a processing rule. Therefore, *Voigt* does not describe, teach, or suggest this feature in combination with the other features of claims 2-21 or 23-30.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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